

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Mayor Coleman Pushing Get Green Columbus Policies Less Engine Exhaust and Greater Recycling Goals of Policy Changes at City Hall**

(COLUMBUS) Aiming to cut the amount of vehicle exhaust going into the air and the amount of trash going into the landfill, City employees will be working under a new set of policies pushed forward through Mayor Michael B. Coleman's Get Green Columbus initiative. Today, the Mayor signed an Executive Order establishing a new City-wide anti-idling policy and sent legislation to Columbus City Council that will greatly expand recycling options for city workers in every City facility.

**"We can all do more, as families, businesses and City Hall to help Get Green in Columbus, and to make a real difference in the quality of life, environment and even economy of our city," said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. "I am asking every City employee to be a part of the solution with a clear anti-idling policy and by making it easier to recycle cans, bottles and paper in City buildings."**

The anti-idling policy was proposed in the Mayor's "Get Green Columbus" memo from earlier this year, which outlines ideas and new pro-environment policies. The Executive Order is designed to reduce emissions from the City's vehicle fleet that can add to central Ohio's air quality problems. In addition, this policy could mean less fuel usage, and a reduction in wear and tear on city vehicles. The Mayor has also encouraged local schools and businesses to look at policies to reduce idling by vehicles.

The Mayor forwarded legislation for first reading tonight at City Council to implement a City-wide recycling contract. Currently the City recycles white paper from larger facilities, but the new contract will make recycling of all office waste available in all city facilities. The contract is for collection, sale and recycling of mixed office products with Rumpke of Ohio, Inc. for two years, and it is established in such a way that incentive provisions will pay more back to the city as more recycling activity occurs. City teams are working with Keep Columbus Beautiful to implement the recycling plan in January.

The City and SWACO continue to work to encourage more families and businesses to recycle in Columbus, including in the Blue Bag Recycling Pilot Neighborhood. **"As our team continues to work on neighborhood outreach and recycling education, more families are signing up for the Blue Bags in our pilot area in south-east of Columbus," said A. Michael Schwarzwald, Environmental Steward for Columbus. "Since we started a few months ago, we received 842 orders for Blue Bags from families, including 200 new customers since the beginning of October. We will continue to communicate directly with residents and encourage them to make recycling a habit in their homes."**

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In the geographic area selected for the Blue Bag Recycling Pilot, there were historically only 43 families engaged in regular household recycling, available through Rumpke's subscription service. The City and SWACO's outreach campaign continues to move forward, reaching out to the 10,000 households in the area.

## **FULL TEXT OF MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER ON IDLING:**

### **EXECUTIVE ORDER**

**2005-02**

**By: MICHAEL B. COLEMAN, MAYOR**

**WHEREAS**, *to minimize air pollution and maximize fuel efficiency, it is the responsibility of all city employees to operate city vehicles and equipment in an environmentally and economically responsible manner; and*

**WHEREAS**, *one hour of idling consumes approximately one gallon of fuel; and*

**WHEREAS**, *idling for one hour equates to approximately 33 miles of engine wear on a standard automobile; and*

**WHEREAS**, *idling causes premature engine wear. An idling engine creates minimal oil pressure resulting in insufficient engine lubrication; and*

**WHEREAS**, *diesel engines actually cool-down when idling during the wintertime, causing cab heat-loss; and*

**WHEREAS**, *drivers are exposed to elevated levels of exhaust while a vehicle is idling due to the lack of air circulation that typically occurs while the vehicle is in motion; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Franklin County does not meet Federal standards for ozone and particulate pollution. Idling contributes to poor air quality that may result in cost mandated controls; and*

**NOW, THEREFORE**, *I, Michael B. Coleman, Mayor of the City of Columbus, declare and institute this Executive Order outlining Vehicle Idling and Fuel Conservation Conduct. City employees operating city-owned vehicles are to:*

- *Not allow city vehicles and equipment idle for any length of time unless idling the vehicle is necessary to accomplish a work-related task.*
- *Minimize idling and conserve fuel whenever possible.*
- *Ensure an assigned vehicle is properly maintained.*
- *Ensure tires are properly inflated. Underinflation decreases fuel economy and cuts short the life of the tire.*
- *Plan and map out trips to minimize distances traveled.*
- *Avoid "jackrabbit" starts by accelerating gradually and to anticipating tops to avoid sudden breaking.*
- *Obey posted speed limits. Excessive speed reduces fuel economy, increases air pollution, creates hazardous driving conditions and is unlawful.*

- *Car-pool whenever possible or practical.*
- *Schedule meetings wisely, especially if travel is required. Meeting times and locations should be selected so as to minimize the travel of the majority of the participants.*
- *Reduce the amount of vehicle warm-up time. Consult vehicle manual to determine the manufacturer's recommendations for guidance on idling in extreme weather conditions.*
- *Eliminate unnecessary weight in the vehicle.*
- *Ensure that vehicle emission controls, systems, and components, are not altered or disconnected unless approved by the Administrator of the Fleet Management Division.*

*This order shall be in full force and effect after my signature is affixed to this document.*